SUNDAY SERMON

A Scholarly Discourse By Dr. C. Edward Locke.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Dr. Charles Edward Locke, pastor of the Hanson Place M. E. Church, preached Sunday in the New York Avenue Church on the topic "Jesus Christ the Universal King." The sermon was the annual sermon before the New York East Conference. The text was from Revelation xvii:14: "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ." Among other things Dr. Locke said:

With His own hand God wrote on the foundations of history. "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head." On the radiant advent morning the angel said to the lowland shepherds, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all peoples;" and later, the Great Teacher Himself answered, "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." Though victorious at times, a broken heart-cry has been spoken no truths which would survive him, and wrote down in the blood-stained heirlock in his own unyielding Antinea, yet God's purpose of a world-wide kingdom cried out in triumph in the midst of the agony, "It is finished!" "It is finished" and Paradise lost became Paradise Regained. And Paradise Regained, in the seraphic isolation of his exile, saw in its vision the fulfillment of all those glowing and splendid words wrote. "The kingdoms of our world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ."

It was a time ripened for psychological moment when Bethlehem's star appeared in the east, and the cradle of Judea. Civilization had slipped down from the heavy highlands of Hittite to the lowlands of Hindustan, it had moved westward, carrying long enough from the heavy burdens of Hittite to the lowlands of Hindustan, it had moved westward, carrying long enough with some day adorn this drowsy nation. China lies partly in the temperate zone, where the greatest nations have developed and where the possibilities of power and permanency are asserted.

They are an industrious people, always busy, quiet and peaceable. Whatever lethargy characterizes the country as a government, the typical Chinaman is a shrewd, active, successful toiler. The Chinese invented printing and gunpowder; first used the magnetic needle; made the most porcelain and to-day manufacture the finest silk and the most exquisite embroidery.

They are an educated people. All candidates for official position—which he said to be the universal ambition of all citizens—must pass difficult examinations, of course I am invited to remind you that their standards of education are low; their astronomy is picturesquely mingled with astrology and all their studies is pathetically behind the studies of the West.

They are a reverential people. They can hardly be said to be a very religious people. Their religion consists in rites and ceremonies rather than in doctrines and principles. The basis of government and society is the fifth commandment—filial devotion. Obedience to parents and respect for old age are everywhere persistently inculcated and practiced. Herein lies the secret of whatever of virtue and permanency may be found among Chinese. When a man reaches eighty years of age his name is reported to the Emperor, and a yellow robe is presented to him as a mark of imperial respect on the presumption that his life and acts have been virtuous or it would not have been prolonged.

All that China needs to make it a progressive and useful nation is Christianity, with its Christ and His institutions. They are a more promising people than were our ancestors in Britain before their conversion to Christianity through the preaching of Augustin and the graceful influence of Queen Bertha, the wife of Ethelbert. They have won their way by venerable age to everything which Occidental nations can do for them. Confucianism, with its negative virtues, and Buddhism, with its intangible mysteries, have been tried and found wanting. May China not be a nation which is to be born in a day? There is a tradition that the Apostle Thomas carried the Gospel first to China. As early as 1256 Pope Nicholas sent missionaries to China. There is a God in Heaven who has not forgotten the Celestials.

What shall I say of Japan, the land of little people and of great deeds; of culture and courtesy, with a population of 45,000,000 living among 150,000 islands whose area is 162,000 square miles—about three times the size of the State of New York? A progressive nation. Only thirty years ago it was a crime to become a Christian in Japan. In 1860 an English sailing ship put into Yokohama. Among the passengers was Thames, on board were two Japanese youths, who had worked their way before the mast. Discomfiture and astonishment at the missionary's greeting first might because all the crew had gone ashore. A few months ago one of these Japanese youths was ordained to Great Britain. This thing he was Paradise Regained. Japan is to-day a distinguished company of such men as Neesima, Ibuka, Honda and Ibuka, Honda and Ibuka, Honda and